

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9674

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2495

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

AF FOR AMBASSADOR EASUM

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NI, TZ, KE, UG, DM

SUBJECT: GARBA ON EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY, OAU SUMMIT, MEETING
WITH THE SECRETARY.

1. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION AT RECEPTION FOR ROMANIAN PRESIDENT
CEAUSESCU MARCH 2 CHARGE RAISED WITH COMMISSIONER FOR EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS GARBA HIS VISITS TO EAST AFRICA AND THE OAU MEETING IN
LOME.

(A) GARBA SAID HE WAS CONCERNED AND PESSIMISTIC ABOUT
DISINTEGRATION OF EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC). IN AN
EFFORT TO MEDIATE, HE HAD GOT NYERERE'S AGREEMENT TO MEET
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WITH KENYATTA AND AMIN, BUT NYERERE POSITED THAT THEY MEET
IN ARUSHA. AMIN HAD ALSO AGREED TO MEET, BUT IN KAMPALA.
KENYATTA HE HAD NOT SEEN AT ALL. GARBA EXPRESSED THE VIEW
THAT KENYA IS PRINCIPALLY AT FAULT IN THE CURRENT IMPASSE
BUT THIS IS NOT DUE TO KENYATTA HIMSELF, WHO WOULD BE
DISTRESSED IF HE KNEW WHAT WAS GOING ON. HE IS
UNFORTUNATELY SENILE, AND THOSE AROUND HIM ARE KEEPING THE

FACTS FROM HIM. GARBA CONCLUDED WITH AN APPEAL FOR A U.S. EFFORT TO SAVE THE EAC, EITHER THROUGH DIRECT APPROACHES TO THE PARTICIPANTS OR INDIRECTLY THROUGH THE U.K. (B) THE OAU MEETING IN LOME, HE SAID, PRODUCED CONDEMNATION OF "A COUPLE OF PEOPLE" OVER THE BENIN "COUP ATTEMPT", AND AS A RESULT PRESIDENT BONGO MAY OUT OF PIQUE REFUSE TO ALLOW THE OAU SUMMIT MEETING TO BE HELD IN GABON IN JULY.

2. GARBA SAID HE WOULD VERY MUCH LIKE TO MEET SECRETARY VANCE. HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GO TO WASHINGTON FOR THIS LATER IN MARCH IF THE UN DEBATE ON SOUTHERN AFRICA TAKES PLACE THEN (STATE 32725), OR ALTERNATIVELY HE MIGHT STOP OVER ON HIS WAY TO BRAZIL IN MAY.

3. COMMENT. GARBA WAS FRIENDLY AND OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONAL CONTACT WITH SECRETARY VANCE IN FURTHERANCE OF THE CLOSER RELATIONS RELECTED BY RECENT HIGH-LEVEL EXCHANGE OF LETTERS AND AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S VISIT. THE ABOVE CONVERSATION DEVELOPED IN SUCH A WAY THAT CHARGE WAS NOT CALLED UPON TO RESPOND WITH RESPECT TO THE PROSPECT OF A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, BUT FOR OBVIOUS REASONS WE BELIEVE SUCH A MEETING WOULD BE HIGHLY DESIRABLE AND URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO BRING IT ABOUT IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. GARBA LEAVES OVER THE WEEKEND FOR OAU MEETING IN CAIRO; IF DEPARTMENT HAS ANY OBSERVATIONS OR SUGGESTIONS TO OFFER REGARDING A MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY, THEY COULD PERHAPS BE RELAYED TO HIM THROUGH AMEMBASSY CAIRO OR WE COULD DO IT ON HIS RETURN TO LAGOS. CROSBY

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